

Application Serial No. 09/823,391  
Attorney Docket No. 42390.P11044

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 14, 16, 21, 26, 28, and 33-37 and add new claims 40-45. Please note that all claims currently pending in the application are included below for clarity, and a marked-up version of the claims is appended to the end of this response.

1           1.       (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2       a mounting portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line  
3           from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector on the  
4           mounting portion; and  
5       a routing portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing  
6           portion to route at least one signal line from a second card connector on the circuit  
7           board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the mounting  
8           portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector on the  
9           circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion.

1           2.       The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2       comprising a single integrated component.

1           3.       (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one  
2       other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one signal line  
3           from a third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a third  
4           communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the  
5           third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the mounting  
6           portion.

1           4.       The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2       routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

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1           5.       (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising:  
2       a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3       a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting  
4       portion.

1           6.       The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2       single part.

1           7.       The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially transverse to  
2       the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           8.       The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

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1           9.     (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2     a circuit board;  
3     a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
4     a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
5     a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
6         one signal line;  
7     a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
8         least one signal line;  
9     a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
10         portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
11         of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
12         on the mounting portion; and  
13     a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
14         portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
15         the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
16         communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
17         of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
18         disposed on the mounting portion.

1           10.    The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card secured in  
2     one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on  
3     the mounting portion.

1           11.    The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral  
2     card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           12.    The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of the first  
2     card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card  
3     connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

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1           13.    The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2    comprising a single integrated component.

1           14.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:  
2    a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3       one signal line; and  
4    at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5       the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6       the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7       mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8       the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9       third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           15.    The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2    routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           16.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising:  
2    a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3    a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
4       portion.

1           17.    The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2    single part.

1           18.    The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially transverse  
2    to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           19.    The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

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1           20.     The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit board  
2     separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening  
3     card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           21.     (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2     a chassis;  
3     a circuit board disposed in the chassis;  
4     a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
5     a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
6     a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
7         one signal line;  
8     a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
9         least one signal line;  
10    a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
11         portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
12         of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
13         on the mounting portion; and  
14    a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
15         portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
16         the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
17         communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
18         of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
19         disposed on the mounting portion.

1           22.     The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card secured in  
2     one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card connector on  
3     the mounting portion.

1           23.     The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the peripheral  
2     card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

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1           24.    The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line of the first  
2   card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second card  
3   connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1           25.    The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the routing portion  
2   comprising a single integrated component.

1           26.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:  
2   a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3   one signal line; and  
4   at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5   the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6   the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7   mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8   the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9   third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           27.    The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least one other  
2   routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           28.    (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising:  
2   a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
3   a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
4   portion.

1           29.    The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser comprising a  
2   single part.

1           30.    The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially transverse  
2   to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the circuit board.

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1           31.     The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a flexible cable.

1           32.     The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the circuit board  
2 separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one intervening  
3 card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           33.     (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 first routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one signal  
3 line from a first card connector on a circuit board to a first card connector  
4 disposed on the first routing means; and  
5 second routing means including a communication means, the communication means of  
6 the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from a second card  
7 connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second communication  
8 means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the second  
9 card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector disposed on the  
10 first routing means.

1           34.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a third routing  
2 means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from a third  
3 card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third communication  
4 means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the third card  
5 connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first routing  
6 means.

1           35.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and second  
2 communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of the  
3 second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

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1           36.    (Amended) A method comprising:  
2    securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board;  
3    securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board;  
4    routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a  
5       first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the  
6       mounting structure;  
7    routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board  
8       through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;  
9       and  
10   routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a  
11       second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector  
12       on the mounting structure.

1           37.    (Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2    securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;  
3    routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through  
4       a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;  
5       and  
6    routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third  
7       communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the  
8       mounting structure.

1           38.    The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2    routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit  
3       board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and  
4    routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the  
5       circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.



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1           39.     The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a peripheral card in  
2     one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the second card connector  
3     on the mounting structure.

Please add new claims 40-45, as set forth below.

1           40.     (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           41.     (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an optical path.

1           42.     (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           43.     (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an optical path.

1           44.     (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           45.     (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the first and second  
2     communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of the routing  
3     portion comprises an optical path.